

HORIZON EUROPE MISSIONS 2025

AMICOS' CONTRIBUTIONS TO ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE CALLS

AMICOS is a non-profit association focused in working for people with intellectual disabilities and their families based in Boiro (A Coruña, Spain). Born in 2000, AMICOS has the aim of boosting social inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities as equal citizens for their personal life project development.

In accordance to the transparency and best practices, the entity established a quality assurance system following the rule UNE-EN ISO 9001, certified by AENOR. In 2009, the quality system was extended to the rule 158201, which collects services to foster self-autonomy.

In 2019, AMICOS got certified with the C02 environmental certification ISO 140641 carbon glue. Fundación Lealtad accredited AMICOS with the seal "Donate in trust", a distinction that recognizes NGOs that comply with the 9 principles of transparency and good management practices.

AMICOS foster projects at a local, regional and European level leaded by people with disabilities and to foster the active participation in initiatives to contribute to face environmental challenges. In this sense, our organization was finalist in PLEAMAR and Empleaverde programs of Fundación Biodiversidad (depending of the Spanish Ministry for ecological transition and the demographic challenge), GALP Arousa estuary, National Park of Atlantic Islands, the Ministry of Social Rights and Agenda 2030, CEPES, among other organisms.

Our entity often collaborates with public institutions and organisms, such as: Augas de Galicia, linked to the Regional Government intended to manage water resources and its development.

The **AMIRÍOS initiative**, supported by *Augas de Galicia*, seeks to promote the active participation of society in general, and young people in particular, in the conservation and improvement of rivers. In a cruss-cutting manner, we seek social inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities as an engine of social and environmental transformation.



With this project, we contributed in improving the situation of the water bodies, according to the potential pressures detected and the measures established in the hydrological plan for the coast of Galicia to the period between 2021-2027. This initiative is supported by 4 different Councils in Barbanza County, several schools, the National Park of Atlantic Islands and the Official Association of Biologists in Galicia Region.



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Results:

- Intervention in 6 water bodies
- Elimination of invasive species, restoration of autochthonous vegetation and waste clearance
- River conservation and improvement work on a total of 12,5 km



We also cooperate with the General Directorate for Fisheries Development with Arousa-lab project, a cascade funding of the Horizon Europe [A-AAGORA project](#).

AMICOS contributions and main activities

All our actions area leaded by our environmental agents, people with intellectual disabilities from AMICOS Association experienced in biodiversity protection and restoration. In a preliminary phase, they will learn about the project purposes and benefits to spread the word.

4.1 Awareness campaigns

To encourage behaviour to conserve their ecosystem values

Social media campaigns

In situ raising awareness activities to the general public

4.2 Environmental education and training addressed to children

4.2.1 Waters Workshop: through panels, games, discussions and experiments, they will learn about the cycle of water, the climate change, water purification and potabilisation



4.2.2 Measurements of physico-chemical parameters characterising the water, concept of the bio-indicator animals, evaluate the quality of the water of the river...

4.2.3 Biodiversity workshop: explanatory panels and materials for observing the fauna and flora of the rivers

4.3 Citizens engagement and solidarity

Installation of information points in crowded public spaces to promote education and awareness-raising.

Restoration activities for removal of invasive species, plastic litter and any other type of waste.



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Previous projects and initiatives

AMICOS Association has an extensive experience in managing EU co-financed projects, mainly public funding from European Commission programs, such as Erasmus+, European Solidarity Corps, CERV.

The REMAR project is promoted by the AMICOS Association in direct collaboration with the National Park of Atlantic Islands several fishermen's guilds, schools and secondary education institutes and secondary schools and companies related to the blue economy.

RE-MAR III, aimed to reduce marine waste in the entire Atlantic Arc through the implementation of various actions, such as waste collection days at sea and on land, information and awareness campaigns on the damage caused to the Natura 2000 network, training courses for professionals in the fishing sector, supervision of waste management practices on board small fishing and recreational vessels, information and awareness fishing and recreational vessels, among others.

In a cross-cutting manner, RE-MAR III is committed to making people with intellectual disabilities more visible and empowering making them participants in the environmental and social challenges we face.

The three editions of REMAR project were funded by ERDF through Empleaverde program, of Fundación Biodiversidad (LIFE IP Intermares).

AMICOS takes part of the beneficiary group as Associated Region in A-AAGORA Horizon Europe project, Blueprint for Atlantic-Arctic Agora on Cross-Sectoral Cooperation for Restoration of Marine and Coastal Ecosystems and Increased Climate Resilience through transformative innovation.

Since 2023, AMICOS is Associated partner of ATLIC 'Atlantic Innoblue Communities' Interreg Atlantic Area project.

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